

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-47 are pending in the application. Due to a typographical error, claim 9 never existed. Claims 1-8, 11-18, 22-40 and 42-47 are allowed. Claims 19-21 and 41 are rejected, and claim 10 is objected to.

Objection to Disclosure

Claim 4 was objected to due to claim terminology. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 2, rather than claim 1.

Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite an input signal divider, rather than a voltage divider, but the term "input signal divider" is consistent with the terminology in the application.

Accordingly, all the disclosure informalities have been addressed.

Drawing Objections

Figure 3 has been amended as attached hereto to show the controller receiving data from the sensors, as requested by the Examiner.

OBJECTIONS UNDER SECTION 103(a)

Claims 19-21 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) under the reference of Sevic et al.

The Sevic et al. reference does show a parallel combination of amplifiers wherein, as illustrated in Figure 4, each amplifier may be preceded by a gain adjustment element. Such gain adjustment elements G1-G4 may be adjusted based upon the output of the quadrature-phase combiner 114, which is indicative of the RF output power for all of the combined amplifiers. That is, the gain adjustment elements are adjusted based upon the overall output, and not upon whether a port is actually occupied by an amplifier.

Claim 19 recites an insert detection circuit at each port for detecting the insertion and removal of a power amplifier in the port. The insert detection circuit, based upon such detection, will generate a respective control signal when the particular port is occupied. The controller that is coupled with the variable amplifier, will adjust the amplification level of that variable amplifier based upon sensing of a control signal that indicates occupancy of the port by a power amplifier or absence of an amplifier. The Sevic et al. reference in no way teaches an insert detection circuit for generating a respective control signal for each port when the port is occupied. In fact, Sevic et al. does not provide any teaching regarding determining if a port is occupied or not. In Sevic et al. all ports are always occupied.

Accordingly, the Sevic et al. reference does not provide any teaching with respect to the invention, as recited in claim 19. Therefore, claim 9 is not properly rejected under §103(a) as being obvious over the Sevic et al. reference.

Claim 20, which depends from claim 19, is also allowable and not rendered obvious under §103(a) by Sevic et al.

Claim 41 further recites limitations similar to those recited in claim 19 and, therefore, also is not rendered obvious under §103(a) by the reference of Sevic et al.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 19-21 and 41 are allowable over the cited art.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8, 11-18, 22-40 and 42-47 are recited as allowable over the prior art for various reasons as set forth by the Examiner. Each of those claims recites a unique combination of elements not taught by the cited art, and are allowable for the reasons set forth by the Examiner, and other reasons as well.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the currently pending claims are in an allowable form and, therefore, requests a Notice of Allowability of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If any issues remain in the case which might be handled in an expedited fashion, such as through a telephone call or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is certainly encouraged to telephone the Applicant's representative or to issue an Examiner's Amendment.

Applicant knows of no fees due herein with this submission. However, if any charges or credits are necessary, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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